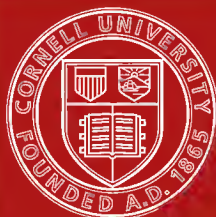


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SOME FACTS ABOUT
THE EARLY HISTORY
OF WHITINGHAM
VERMONT





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SOME FACTS ABOUT
THE EARLY HISTORY
OF WHITINGHAM
VERMONT

SOME FACTS ABOUT
*The Early
History of Whitingham
Vermont*

By
HON. A. AUGUSTINE BUTTERFIELD

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The Early History of Whitingham

COLUMBUS discovered some islands of America in 1492. When he first made known to Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain his discovery of land in the West, they were disposed to claim all the territories which might be found in that part of the world; the King of Portugal, however, informed them that he considered even the West Indies, as belonging to his crown, inasmuch as his subjects had first visited the Azores. The question was at last submitted to the Pope, who gravely decided that Portugal should have all the lands and territories that might be discovered within a thousand miles of Europe, and Spain all that should be discovered beyond; but neither England nor Holland nor even France was disposed to consent to this authoritative partition of the newly discovered regions of the West; and these powers subsequently took possession of different parts of

North America, supporting their respective pretensions by long and bloody wars. The claims advanced by England were founded on the discoveries of John Cabot and his son Sabastian, Italian navigators residing in England, who were sent in quest of new countries, with an expedition fitted out by the king, very soon after the discovery of the West Indies by Columbus. John discovered Newfoundland in 1494 and in 1497 Sabastian coasted from the northeastern part of the Continent nearly to the Gulf of Mexico. The French laid claim to Nova Scotia, on the ground of its having been visited and taken possession of in the name of their king, thirty years afterward, by an Italian navigator in his service named Verranzano. The first settlement attempted by them was in 1540 which was unsuccessful. The Dutch claim to the country about the mouth and along the course of the Hudson River was founded on the discoveries made by Hendrick or Henry Hudson who while in the service of the King of England, explored these regions in 1609. During this year and previous to the discoveries of Hudson, Sam-

uel de Champlain went down the west side of the lake which bears his name and was the first white man to see the mountains of Vermont. In 1620 the "Plymouth Council" was incorporated by King James I of England, and in that year the first Pilgrims came over and landed at Plymouth, Mass. Plymouth remained a separate colony until 1692, when it was united with "Massachusetts Bay." In 1628 the Plymouth Council granted the land between the Merrimack and Charles Rivers and three miles north of the Merrimack and south of the Charles, and extending westerly to the "*South Sea*." Just where it was supposed that the South Sea was I cannot tell, but some writers call it the Pacific Ocean, and as the waters from these two rivers flowed into the Atlantic, of course on this theory they must flow from the Pacific Ocean. Mr. Endicott came over with three hundred persons to prepare for a still larger number and established themselves in Salem and Charlestown. At one time New Hampshire and Massachusetts were united under one governor, but in 1741 the line of separation, not having been previously

ascertained, by order of the king in council it was to be run, beginning at a point three miles north of the mouth of the Merrimack and running westerly in a similar curved line to the river and three miles northerly thereof until a point was reached three miles north of the great falls, thence due west until his Majestie's other provinces were reached. Much discussion has been had as to the "Great Falls" intended. Had the northern falls been taken, Brattleboro, Bennington and Whitingham would have belonged to Massachusetts. This survey was run by Richard Hazen, and had he followed his orders—due west from the point he took north of Pawtucket Falls, Colerain and North Adams would have belonged to Vermont now—but Hazen, when at a point three miles north of Pawtucket Falls run a line west 10° north. Vermont at this time was an unknown wilderness, inhabited by savage beasts and still more savage Indians, except a fort or two had previously been builded, and a small settlement around each in the southeast part of the state, then supposed to be in Massa-

chusetts, and along some streams, lakes and ponds where wild grass grew.

In 1741 Benning Wentworth was appointed governor of the Province of New Hampshire. It must not be forgotten that England and France were ancient enemies and had frequent wars: these wars usually disturbed the peace of the American Colonies, as the French were then established in Canada. A war, known as King George's war began in 1744 and ended in 1748.

In January, 1749, Governor Wentworth chartered a town six miles square in the territory now Vermont, in which he never had any right or authority whatever, and named it in honor of himself, Bennington: and the fees and emoluments were such that his cupidity was stirred. In 1750 he chartered Halifax, in 1751 Wilmington and his avarice was such that when he was stopped by the decision of the king in 1764 he had chartered somewhere 130 towns and this, too, in face of the claim of the governor of the Province of New York and his protest thereto.

War was again declared by England against France in 1756, though in fact the English and

French people in America had really begun the war in 1754. This war lasted until 1763, and is known as the French and Indian War, though sometimes one or two of the preceding wars were known by the same title and name. The formal treaty of peace was signed at Paris, February 10, 1763. During this and former wars incursions were made through this territory into Canada and the soil and timber became known to the people of Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Connecticut. As the army was disbanded there was no further need of many of the officers: these were reduced, and in October, 1763, the king in council ordered that ungranted lands be granted to these reduced officers. At some time, probably under the direction of New Hampshire the township of Cumberland had been surveyed, but we are unable to learn that any charter had ever been granted by that name or lands granted in that territory by that province. Many of these reduced officers petitioned to have their land set out there. A captain seems to have had three thousand acres, a first lieutenant two thousand and a second lieutenant one

thousand. Some of these officers expressed anxiety to have their lands set out in Cumberland or elsewhere. We are told a large number asked for land in Cumberland. Nathan Whiting made his request as follows:

“TO THE HONORABLE CADWALLADER COLDEN, ESQ., *his Majesty's Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief of the Province of New York and the Territories depending thereon in America.*

THE PETITION of Nathan Whiting late a captain in one of his Majesty's Independent Companies of Foot

Sheweth That your petitioner served in America during the late war, and being entitled to the Bounty which his Majesty has been graciously pleased by his Royal Proclamation of the 7th October, 1763, to extend to such reduced officers as have so served in America.

Your Petitioner therefore prays his Majesty's grant to him and his Heirs of the quantity of three thousand acres of a certain Tract of Vacant land vested in the Crown lying on the west side of Connecticut River adjoining to the present Line between this Province and the Province of Massachusetts Bay and formerly laid out into

a Township by the Province of New Hampshire by the Name of Cumberland Township, but which has been since vacated and the Land re-assumed, under the Restrictions prescribed by the said Royal Proclamation. And your Petitioner shall ever pray &c."

N. WHITING."

New York, 11th June, 1765.

CERTIFICATE OF GENERAL GAGE.

"These are to certify to all to whom it May Concern, that Captain Nathan Whiting, hath served in America during the war, & is now a reduced officer.

Given under My Hand at Head Quarters in New York this 18th Day of April, 1764.

THOS. GAGE."

Indorsed

"11 June

Petition of Capt. Nathan Whiting for 3000 Acres of Land in pursuance of the King's Proclamation, 1765, July 8."

Read in Council and Granted."

Nathan Whiting also made another petition of the same date as the other as follows:—

"TO THE HONBLE CADWALLADER COLDEN, ESQR., his Majesty's Lieutenant Governor and

Commander in Chief of the Province of New York and the territories depending thereon in America.

THE PETITION of Nathan Whiting in behalf of himself and nine other persons humbly

Sheweth That there is a Tract of Vacant unpatented Land Vested in the Crown lying on the west side of Connecticut River adjoining to the present Line between this Province and the Province of Massachusetts Bay and formerly laid out into a Township by the Province of New Hampshire by the name of Cumberland Township but which has since vacated and the Lands reassumed. That your Petitioners intend if they can obtain a Grant of Ten thousand acres of the said Tract of Land to make a speedy and effectual settlement thereon

YOUR PETITIONERS therefore humbly pray that Your Honours will be favorably pleased by his Majesty's Letters Patent to grant to each of them respectively and to their respective Heirs and Assigns the Quantity of one thousand Acres of the Tract of land above described under the Quit Rent Provisions Limitations and Restrictions prescribed by his Majesty's Instructions.

And Your Petitioners will ever pray &c.

New York, 11th June, 1765.

N. WHITING *in behalf of himself and the rest
of his associates.*

(Indorsed)

"11th June, 1765.

*Petition of Nathan Whiting and nine
others for 10,000 Acres of Land in the
County of Albany No. 9 Cumberland."*

It turned out that there was not 10,000 acres at that time ungranted, or voted to be granted, although the Council voted to grant this 10,000 acres. The 3,000 acres and a patent afterward issued to Nathan Whiting on his personal petition, in the southeast corner of the town 178 chains north and south and 178 chains east and west, 2,000 acres were granted to James Eddington west of Whiting's patent—178 chains north and south and 118 1/2 chains east and west, 2,000 acres to Thomas Gamble west of Eddington of the same size and shape, 1,000 acres in the northeast corner of the town to Thomas Etherington 59 chains north and south and 178 chains east and west, 2,000 acres south of the last above to John Nordburg 118 chains north and south and

178 chains east and west, 3,000 acres to John Walker west of the two last named patents, 177 chains north and south and 178 chains east and west, 2,000 acres to Dennis Carleton west of Capt. Walker's patent 169 1/2 chains north and south and 124 chains east and west. Some very reputable people have protested that these grants were not valid, notwithstanding this territory had been decreed to belong to New York in 1764, because of the king's prohibition of 1767; but all these lands had been petitioned for, the petitions presented to the Council, referred to a committee which had reported favorably and the Council had voted the patents, for all the land in this town before the king's prohibition reached here.

WHITINGHAM.

On the 27th day of January, 1767, a petition was presented to the Lieutenant Governor of New York by Nathan Whiting, Samuel Fitch, Eleazer Fitch, James Smedley, David Baldwin, Andrew Myers, Samuel Whiting, Robert Aiton, Amos Hitchcock and Nathan Haines Whiting

for a grant of a township which was referred to a committee, who reported favorably and the petition was granted. The patent was ordered to issue but for some reason the matter was delayed for nearly three years. On the 26th day of January, 1770, Col. Nathan Whiting renewed the petition in behalf of himself and his associates, setting forth that the lands prayed for were vacant and had never been granted. The following is the second petition of Col. Whiting and the one on which the grant was made and the patent issued.—*Jillson's Green Leaves.*

PETITION.

TO THE HONORABLE CADWALLADER COLDEN,
ESQUIRE, *his Majesty's Lieutenant Governor
and Commander in Chief of the Province of
New York and the territories depending thereon
in America,*

In Council.

THE PETITION of Colonel Nathan Whiting in behalf of himself and his Associates Humbly

Sheweth That your petitioner and his Associates on their former petition obtained an order of his Excellency Sir Henry Moore with the ad-

vice and consent of the Council bearing date the twenty-seventh day of January one thousand seven hundred and sixty-seven for granting to them and their heirs the Quantity of Ten thousand acres of a certain Tract of Land lying on the West side of Connecticut River known by the name of the Township of Cumberland. That they have since procured an actual survey of said Land and find the vacant Land to contain only the Quantity of Seven thousand acres. That the same though part of the Lands formerly claimed by the Government of New Hampshire have not been granted by that government but still remain Vacant and vested in the Crown. Your petitioner therefore humbly prays that the Letters Patent ordered on said former Petition May issue for the Quantity of Land found to be vacant, and in the Names of Nathan Whiting, Samuel Fitch, Eleazer Fitch, James Smedley, Andrew Myers, Robert Aiton and Samuel Boyer, who are all the persons at present interested in the Premises. And your petitioner in behalf of himself and his Associates Doth further pray that the said Seven thousand acres together with the following Tracts granted to or Surveyed for reduced Officers, to wit: three thousand acres granted to the Petitioner Nathan Whiting, two

thousand acres Granted to Lieutenant James Eddington, two thousand acres Granted to Lieutenant John Nordburg, one thousand acres Granted to Lieutenant Thomas Etherington, three thousand acres surveyed for Captain John Walker, two thousand acres surveyed for Lieutenant Thomas Gamble and two thousand acres surveyed for Lieutenant Dennis Carleton may be erected into a Township by the name of *Whitingham* with the usual privileges. And your petitioners as in Duty bound shall ever pray &c. New York, 26th January, 1770.

NATHAN WHITING *in behalf of himself and his associates.*

A long certificate, of several pages, was made to this petition and signed Cadwallader Colden, Andrew Elliot and Alex Colden. Cadwallader Colden was Lieutenant Governor, Andrew Elliot Receiver General and Alexander Colden Surveyor General.

THE CHARTER OF WHITINGHAM.

George the Third, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, and so forth.

To all to Whom these Presents shall Come,
GREETING:

Whereas our Loving subjects Nathan Whiting, Samuel Fitch, Eleazer Fitch, James Smedley, David Baldwin, Andrew Myers, Samuel Whiting, Robert Aiton, Amos Hitchcock and Nathan Haines Whiting by their humble Petition presented unto our late trusty and well beloved Sir Henry Moore, Baronet, then our Captain General and Governor in Chief of our Province of New York and read in our Council for said Province on the twenty-seventh day of January which was in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty-seven, did set forth among other Things that there was a certain Tract of vacant unpatented Land vested in us lying on the West side of Connecticut River, adjoining to the present Line between our said Province and the Province of Massachusetts Bay, and commonly called or known by the name of Cumberland, and that the Petitioners did intend if they could obtain a grant of ten thousand acres thereof to make a speedy and effectual settlement thereon. And therefore the Petitioners did humbly pray our said late Captain General and Governor in Chief to grant to each of the petitioners and their respective heirs; the

Quantity of one thousand acres of the said Tract of Land which Petition having been then referred to a Committee of our Council for our said Province. Our said Council did afterwards on the same day in pursuance of the Report of the said Committee humbly advise and consent that our said late Captain General and Governor in Chief should by our Letters Patent unto the said Petitioners and their heirs the Quantity of ten thousand acres of Land described in their said Petition under the Quit Rent Provisoos Limitations and Restrictions prescribed by our Royal Instructions:

And whereas the said Nathan Whiting in behalf of himself and his associates hath by his humble Petition presented to our trusty and well beloved Cadwallader Colden Esquire our Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief of our said Province and read in our said Council for our said Province on the thirty-first day of January now last past, set forth, that the Petitioner and his associates had procured an actual survey of the Lands aforesaid and find the vacant Land to contain only the Quantity of seven thousand acres:

That the same tho' part of the Lands formerly claimed by the Government of New Hampshire

have not been granted by that Government but still remain vacant and vested in us: And therefore the Petitioner did humbly pray that the Letters Patent ordered on the said former Petition might issue for the Quantity of Land so found to be vacant, and in the Names of Nathan Whiting, Samuel Fitch, Eleazer Fitch, James Smedley, Andrew Myers, Robert Aiton, and Samuel Boyer, who are all the Persons at present interested in the said Lands, and further that the said seven thousand acres of Land together with the following Tracts (part of the aforesaid Tract called Cumberland) granted to or surveyed for reduced officers to wit: three thousand acres granted to the Petitioner Nathan Whiting, two thousand acres granted to Lieutenant James Eddington; two thousand acres granted to John Nordbergh; one thousand acres granted to Lieutenant Thomas Etherington; three thousand acres surveyed for and since granted to Captain John Walker; two thousand acres surveyed for and since granted to Lieutenant Thomas Gamble and two thousand acres surveyed for and since granted to Lieutenant Dennis Carleton, might be erected into a Township by the name of Whitingham with the usual privileges; on reading and due consideration whereof it was ordered

by our said Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief with the advice and consent of our said Council that the Letters Patent ordered on the said former Petition should issue in the names of the said Nathan Whiting, Samuel Fitch, Eleazer Fitch, James Smedley, Andrew Myers, Robert Aiton and Samuel Boyer for the Quantity of the said Lands so found to be vacant, and that the same together with the several other Tracts above mentioned be erected into a Township by the name of Whitingham with the usual privileges granted to other Townships within our said Province: In Pursuance whereof and in obedience to our said Royal Instructions, our Commissioners appointed for the setting out all Lands to be granted within our said Province have set out for them the said Nathan Whiting, Samuel Fitch, Eleazer Fitch, James Smedley, Andrew Myers, Robert Aiton and Samuel Boyer, all that certain Tract or Parcel of Land within our Province of New York, situate and being on the West side of Connecticut River in the County of Cumberland, being part of a larger Tract heretofore called and known by the name of Cumberland. Beginning at the north-east corner of a Tract of three thousand acres of Land granted to the said Nathan Whiting as a

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reduced officer; and runs thence along the North Bounds of the last mentioned Tract, and the North Bounds of a Tract of Land granted to Lieutenant James Eddington and the North Bounds of a Tract of Land granted to Lieutenant Thomas Gamble North eighty degrees West four hundred and fifteen chains, then South ten degrees West one hundred and seventy-eight chains to the Line run for the Bounds of the Massachusetts Bay Government; then along the said Line North eighty degrees West sixty-five chains; then North ten degrees East three hundred and ten chains and two rods to a Tract of two thousand acres of Land granted to Lieutenant Dennis Carleton; then along the South Bounds of the last mentioned Tract South eighty East one hundred and twenty-four chains to a Tract of three thousand acres of Land granted to Captain John Walker; then along the West Bounds of the last mentioned Tract South ten degrees West seven chains and two rods. Then along the South Bounds of the said last mentioned Tract, and the South Bounds of a Tract of two thousand acres of Land granted to Lieutenant John Nordbergh, three hundred and fifty-six chains, then South ten degrees West one hundred and twenty-five chains to the Place where

this Tract first began, containing six thousand nine hundred acres of land and the usual allowances for highways: and in setting out the said Tract of six thousand nine hundred acres of Land our said Commissioners have had regard to profitable and unprofitable acres; and have taken care that Length thereof doth not extend along the Banks of any River otherwise than is conformable to our said Royal Instructions as by a certificate thereof under their hands, bearing date the first day of this Instant Month of March, and entered on Record in our Secretary's office for our said Province among other Things may more fully appear, which said Tract of Land set out as aforesaid according to our said Royal Instructions. We being willing to grant to the said Petitioners their heirs and assigns forever. Know ye that of our especial Grace, certain knowledge and Meer Motion, we have given, granted, ratified and confirmed and Do by these Presents for us our heirs and successors give, grant, ratify and confirm unto them the said Nathan Whiting, Samuel Fitch, Eleazer Fitch, James Smedley, Andrew Myers, Robert Aiton, and Samuel Boyer, their heirs and assigns forever, all that the Tract or Parcel of Land aforesaid, set out, abutted, bounded and de-

scribed in Manner and Form as above mentioned, together with all and singular the Tenements, Hereditaments, Emoluments and Appurtenances thereunto belonging or appertaining. And also all our Estate, Right, Title, Interest, Possession, Claim and Demand whatsoever of in and to the same Lands and Premises and every Part and Parcel thereof: and the Reversion and Reversions, Remainder and Remainders, Rents, Issues and Profits thereof and of every Part and Parcel thereof, Except and always reserved out of this our present Grant unto us, our heirs and successors forever, all Mines of Gold and Silver, and also all White or other sorts of Pine Trees fit for Masts of the growth of twenty-four inches Diameter and upward at twelve inches from the Earth, for Masts for the Royal Navy of us, our heirs and successors. To have and to hold one full and equal seventh Part (the whole into seven equal Parts to be divided) of the said Tract or Parcel of Land, Tenements, Hereditaments and Premises by these Presents granted, ratified and confirmed and every Part and Parcel thereof with their and every of their appurtenances (except as is herein before excepted) unto each of them, our Grantees above Mentioned, their heirs and assigns respectively to

their only proper and separate use and Behoof respectively forever as Tenants in Common and not as joint Tenants. To be holden of us, our heirs and successors in fee and common socage as of our Manor of East Greenwich in our County of Kent within our Kingdom of Great Britain. Yielding, rendering and paying therefor yearly and every year forever unto us, our heirs and successors at our Custom House in our City of New York unto our or their Collector or Receiver General there for the Time being on the Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary commonly called Lady Day the yearly rent of two shillings and six pence Sterling for each and every hundred acres of the above granted Lands and so in Proportion for any lesser Quantity thereof saving and except for such Part of the said Lands allowed for Highways as above mentioned in Lieu and stead of all other Rents, Services, Dues, Duties and Demands whatsoever for the hereby granted Lands and Premises or any Part thereof. And we being Willing according to the Prayer of the said Petitioners to create and make the said Tract of Land hereby granted a Township with such other of the adjacent Lands as are included and comprehended within the Bounds and

Limits following, that is to say. Beginning at a Hemlock Tree and a Beach Tree growing close together having two large stones laid between them, standing in the Line run for the Bounds of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay and which Beach Tree is marked with these words. The Corner of Cumberland, and runs thence North ten degrees East six Miles: then North eighty degrees West six Miles, then South ten degrees West six Miles to the aforesaid Line run for the Bounds of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, and then along the said Line South ten degrees East six Miles to the said Place of beginning, and to grant to the Inhabitants of the same such Powers and Privileges as the Inhabitants of other Townships in our said Province of New York have and do enjoy: Know Ye therefore that of our especial Grace, certain knowledge and Meer Motion, We do by these Presents create, erect and constitute the said Tract of Land, hereby granted, and all other the Lands included within the Bounds and Limits last Mentioned and every Part and Parcel thereof one Township forever, hereafter to be continue and remain, and by the Name of WHITINGHAM forever, hereafter to be called and known, and for the better and more easily carry-

ing on and managing the public affairs and Business of the same Township our Royal Will and Pleasure, and we do hereby for us and our heirs and successors give and grant to the Inhabitants of the said Township all the Powers, Authorities, Privileges and Advantages heretofore given and granted to or legally enjoyed by all, any or either our other Townships within our said Province. And we also ordain and establish that there shall be forever hereafter in the said Township two Assessors, one Treasurer, two Overseers of the Highways, two Overseers of the Poor, one Collector and four Constables, elected and chosen out of the Inhabitants of the said Township yearly and every year on the first Tuesday in May at the most publick Place in the said Township by the majority of the Freeholders thereof then and there met and assembled for that Purpose; hereby declaring that wheresoever the first election in the said Township shall be held, the future elections shall forever thereafter be held in the same Place as near as may be and giving and granting to the said officers, so chosen, Power and Authority to exercise their said several and respective offices, during one whole year from such election, and until others are legally chosen and elected in their Room and stead as fully and

amply as any the like officers have or legally may use or exercise their offices in our said Province: And in case any or either of the said officers of the said Township shall die or remove from the said Township before the time of their annual service shall be expired, or refuse to act in the Offices for which they shall respectively be chosen, then our Royal Will and Pleasure further is, and we do hereby direct, ordain and require the Freeholders of the said Township to meet at the Place where the annual Election shall be held for the said Township, and choose other or others of the said Inhabitants of the said Township in the place and stead of him or them so dying, removing or refusing to act, within forty days next after such contingency and to prevent any undue election in this case, We do hereby ordain and require that upon every Vacancy in the Office of Assessors, the Treasurer, and in either of the other offices, the Assessors of the said Township, shall within ten days next after any such vacancy first happens, appoint the day for such Election, and give publick Notice thereof in writing under his or their hands by affixing such notice on the Church Door or other most publick Place in the said Township at the least ten days before the day

appointed for such Election, and in default thereof, We do hereby require the Officer or Officers of the said Township or the survivor of them, who in the order they are hereinbefore mentioned shall next succeed him or them so making Default, to appoint the day for such Election, and give notice thereof as aforesaid, hereby giving and granting to such Person or Persons as shall be so chosen by the majority of such of the Freeholders of the said Township as shall meet in manner hereby directed shall have, hold, exercise and enjoy the office or offices to which he or they shall be so elected and chosen from the time of such election until the first Tuesday in May then next following, and until other or others be legally chosen in his or their place and stead, as fully as the Person or Persons in whose Place he or they shall be chosen might or could have done by virtue of these Presents. And we do hereby will and direct that this Method shall forever hereafter be used for the filling up all vacancies that shall happen in any of the said Offices between the annual Elections above directed. Provided always and upon Condition nevertheless that if our said Grantees, their heirs or assigns, or some or one of them shall not within three years next after the date

of this our present Grant settle on the said Tract of Land hereby granted, so many Families as shall amount to one Family for every thousand acres of the same Tract, or if they, our said Grantees or one of them, their or one of their heirs or assigns shall not also within three years to be computed as aforesaid plant and effectually at the least three acres for every fifty acres of such of the hereby granted Lands as are capable of Cultivation; or if they, our said Grantees or any of them, they or any of their heirs or assigns or any other Person or Persons by their or any of their Privity, Consent or Procurement shall fell, cut down or otherwise destroy any of the Pine Trees by these Presents reserved to us, our heirs and Successors, or hereby intended so to be, without the Royal License of us, our heirs or Successors for so doing first had and obtained; that then and in any of these Cases this our present Grant and everything therein Contained shall cease and be absolutely void, and the Lands and Premises hereby granted shall revert to and vest in us, our heirs and Successors, as if this, our present Grant had not been made, anything hereinbefore contained to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding:

Provided further and upon Condition also

nevertheless, and We do hereby for us, our heirs and Successors direct and appoint, that this our present Grant shall be registered and entered on Record within six months from the date thereof in our Secretary's Office in our City of New York in our said Province in one of the Books of Patents there remaining and a Docquet thereof shall be also entered in our Auditor's Office there for our said Province and that in default thereof this our present Grant shall be void and of non Effect, any thing before in these Presents contained to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding, and We do moreover of our especial Grace, certain Knowledge and Meer Motion Consent and agree that this our present Grant being registered, recorded and a Docquet thereof made as before directed and appointed shall be good and effectual in the Law to all Intents, Constructions and Purposes whatsoever against us, our heirs and Successors notwithstanding any misreciting, misbounding, misnaming or other Imperfections or Omissions of in or in any wise concerning the above granted or hereby mentioned or intended to be granted Lands, Tenements, Hereditaments and Premises or any part thereof.

In Testimony Whereof We have caused these

our Letters to be made Patent and the Great Seal of our said Province of New York to be hereunto affixed.

Witness our said trusty and well beloved Cadwallader Colden, Esquire, our said Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief of our said Province of New York and the Territories depending thereon in America at our Fort in our City of New York the twelfth day of March in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy and of our Reign the Tenth.

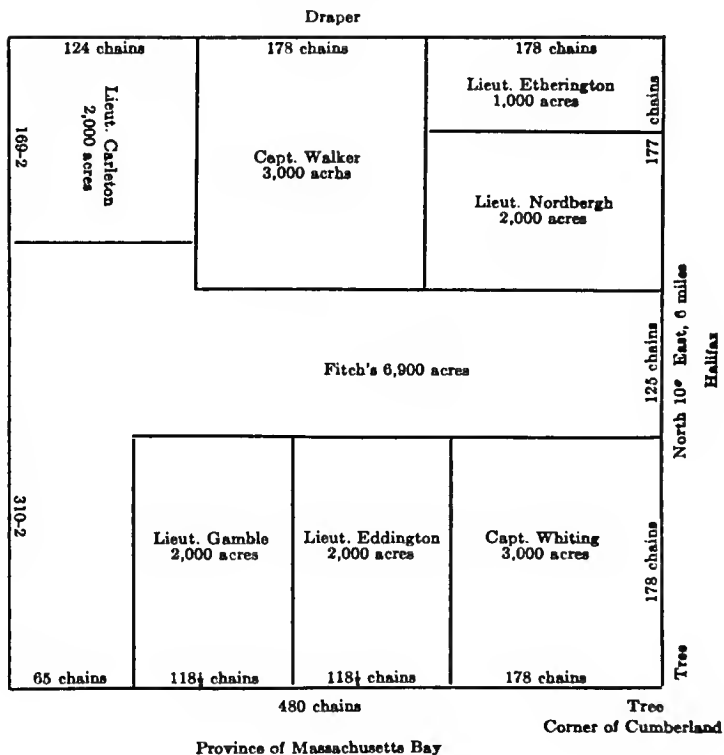
Second Skin, the word any in the twenty-fourth being first interlined.—Clarke.

In the preceeding Certificate and Letters recorded for Nathan Whiting and others, page 52 Line 15 the word "thereof" is interlined. Examined and compared this 15 March, 1770, By me.

GEO. BANYER, *D. Sec'ry.*

Recorded in Book 15, page 51 &c.

PLAN OF WHITINGHAM AT TIME OF CHARTER MARCH 12, 1770.



Thus was Whitingham chartered and surveyed, more carefully than any surveying has since been done until recently. In surveying

these lands more than fifty acres in each thousand were allowed for "highways" or "bad and unprofitable acres," so that the entire 23,040 acres were covered or six miles square. These grantees were officers in the French and Indian wars. Thomas Etherington received a part of the thirty thousand dollars paid by Vermont to New York as a compromise for grants made in Vermont, but whether it was for the grant in this town or not I do not know, nor have I learned what, if anything, Lieut. James Eddington, Lieut. John Nordbergh or Lieut. Dennis Carleton did in relation to their grants, but the "land grabbers" not of New York, seized a large part of them.

Samuel Darby built a house and had possessions on T. Etherington's patent as early as 1776 and November 5 of that year gave Silas Hamilton authority to sell the same.—*Green Leaves, page 102.*

With or without right, Silas Hamilton was living in that part of the town soon after the charter was granted, and probably built a house there that year. He built the first hotel in town on the place known as the Addison Eames place. About the year 1780 he and seven associates petitioned for a grant of three thousand acres,

to the authorities of Vermont, and their petition was granted as follows:

(L. S.) STATE OF VERMONT	}	THE GOVERNOR; COUNCIL AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FREE- MEN OF VERMONT.
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To all people to whom these presents shall Come,
GREETING:

Know Ye that whereas it has been represented to us by our worthy friend Silas Hamilton and associates, that there is a certain tract of Vacant land within this State, which has not been heretofore granted, which they pray may be granted to them, we have therefore thought fit for the due encouragement of settling a new plantation within this State and other valuable considerations us hereunto moving and do by these Presents in the name and by the authority of the freemen of Vermont give and grant unto the said Silas Hamilton and the several persons hereafter named his associates, viz.: Thomas Sterns, John Butler, James Roberts, Abner Moor, James Angel, Charles Dodge, and Eliphalet Hyde, bounded as follows, viz.: Beginning at the southeast corner of Wilmington and the northeast corner of Whitingham beach tree marked P. P. M. thence bounded on Wilming-

ton north eighty degrees west 176 chains and 25 links to a small maple tree marked P. P. M. thence south 10 degrees west 171 chains and 25 links to a large beach tree marked M. E. 111 thence south eighty degrees east 176 chains and 25 links to a large hemlock tree on Halifax line, thence bounded on Halifax line north 10 degrees east 171 chains and 25 links to the first mentioned bounds, containing three thousand acres.

And the said tract of land is hereby declared to be joined to the Township of Whitingham or entitled to receive equal privileges and immunities in connection with said town as other incorporated Towns within this state do by law exercise and enjoy. To have and to hold the said granted premises with every appurtenance and privilege to them and their respective heirs and assigns as above described to their free and full enjoyment forever.

In Testimony whereof we have caused the seal of this State to be affixed this 15th day of March, A.D., 1780, and in the third year of the independence of this State.

THOMAS CHITTENDEN.

JONAS FAY, *Sec'y.*

This was evidently intended to cover the same territory as the grant to Lieutenant Nordbergh

and Etherington, though the distance given is a little less.

The State asked for this grant six thousand shillings, but June 8, 1780, reduced the price to three thousand, money made good as in 1774. This is now known as Hamilton's Grant. February 23, 1781, the General Assembly of Vermont passed a resolve that a grant of land be made to Robert Bratton and seven associates in the northeast corner of Whitingham of five thousand acres.—*Jillson's address*.

If this is not a mistake in copying it certainly is in statement for the grant was made for two thousand acres, November 22, 1782, and in the northwest corner, and covered the lands formerly granted to Lieut. Carleton, and to Bratton and six associates. The petition called for 5,000 acres, but before the grant was made, October 22, 1782, a grant covering the grant to Capt. John Walker, was made as follows:

"TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1782.

Resolved that there be and is hereby granted and conferred to Messrs Samuel Wells, Jonathan Hunt and Arad Hunt three thousand acres of land lying in Whitingham with the usual

allowances for highways in such proportion as they heretofore claimed the same under a grant from the late government of New York, for such fees the Governor and Council shall judge reasonable, upon this condition that the said Grantees convey to each settler now actually dwelling on said land, one hundred acres to be laid out in such form as the committee hereinafter named shall direct, and to include the improvements made by such settler within fourteen days after such settler shall have paid or secured to be paid to the said grantees to the satisfaction of said Committee such sum or sums of money as said committee shall judge just.

Provided That the said grantees shall not be holden to convey as aforesaid except as to such settlers who shall pay or secure the payment as aforesaid within one month after such committee shall have determined the price to be paid by them and notice thereof given to them respectively, said land hereby granted bounded as follows, viz.: Beginning at the northwest corner of a tract of land granted by the late government of New York to Lieut. Thomas Etherington, and runs thence north 80 degrees west 178 chains, thence south 10 degrees west 177 chains, thence south 80 degrees east 178 chains, thence north

10 degrees east 177 chains to the place of beginning, and further Resolved that Col. Zadock Granger and Capt. Whittemore of Marlborough and Luke Knowlton, Esq., of New Fane or such other person or persons as the parties shall mutually agree on shall be a committee for the purpose aforesaid."

John Walker seems by some kind of arrangement to have transferred his three thousand acres to Col. Samuel Wells of Brattleboro and he in turn to Jonathan and Arad Hunt of Vernon, then called Hinsdale. It would be interesting to know whom these settlers were.

March 6, 1774, when Col. Wells owned this grant he mortgaged it to William Wincher of New York, and September 8, 1774, he deeded lot No. 1 of this grant to Hezekiah Leffenwell, who in two days mortgaged it back to Wells. See Cumberland Deeds.

Why, if Samuel Wells owned the Walker grant should he ask a grant from Vermont, then in a new and uncertain state, and with uncertain authority; and why did he ask a grant of land he had already sold, unless he had taken back the Leffenwell lot? But he had not, for Leffen-

well sold it, and the title is regular down to this date.

What, if anything, was done under the commission I am not informed.

There was a supplementary grant to the Hunts as follows:

(L. S.)	}	THE GOVERNOR, COUNCIL AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF VERMONT.
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*To all persons to whom these presents shall
Come, GREETING:*

KNOW YE THAT Whereas Jonathan Hunt and Arad Hunt, Esquires, our worthy friends, have by petition requested and obtained a grant of land within this State for the purpose of Settlement, we have therefore thought fit for the due encouragement of their laudable designs and in consequence of their faithful performance of the conditions of the grant of land aforesaid, and do by these presents and in the name and by the authority of the freemen of the State of Vermont, give and grant unto the aforesaid Jonathan Hunt and Arad Hunt their heirs and assigns forever the lots or pieces of land hereafter bounded and described as follows, to wit:

Three lots in the Township of Whitingham, being a part of three thousand acres granted to Capt. John Walker, a reduced officer, said lots containing one hundred and ninety-six acres in each lot and are numbered two, three and five as expressed in a certain indenture of release made to the said Jonathan Hunt and Arad Hunt by Samuel Wells and is contained in a grant made by the Legislature of this State to Messrs Samuel Wells and the aforesaid Jonathan and Arad Hunt on the 22d day of October, 1782, of three thousand acres of land in the aforesaid Whitingham, the aforesaid three lots of land containing in the whole six hundred acres or thereabouts, reserving to the use of the public the usual allowance for highways.

To have and to hold the aforesaid Lots and Pieces of land as above described, with all the privileges and appurtenances belonging thereto to the above said Jonathan Hunt and Arad Hunt and each of their respective heirs and assigns forever, they doing and performing the settlement and duty required by Law on other Grants made by this State.

In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the Seal of this State to be affixed this 25th day of October, 1787.

THOMAS CHITTENDEN.

In 1796 a tract of land was granted to Green, Moulton and others, as Whitingham Gore, as follows:

(L. S.) } MEN OF THE STATE OF VERMONT.
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FREE-
THE GOVERNOR, COUNCIL AND

*To all People to Whom these presents shall
Come, GREETING:*

KNOW YE that whereas, *that whereas* our worthy friend, Mr. Amos Green and Company to the numbers of sixteen have by petition requested a grant of unlocated land within this State for the purpose of settlement, we have therefore thought fit for the due encouragement of their laudable designs and for other valuable causes and considerations as hereunto moving, do by these presents in the name and by the authority of the freemen of the State of Vermont give grant unto the said Amos Green & Company the tract of land hereafter bounded & described to be divided into equal shares as follows, viz: Samuel Moulton, Thomas Day, Samuel Day, James Howard, Seth Howard, Benjamin Nelson, Benjamin Blodgett, Benjamin Blodgett, Jr., Samuel Nelson, Solomon Moul-

ton, Asaph White, William Nelson, Thomas Blodgett, Abishai Blodgett and Daniel Wallace reserving three hundred acres out of said tract of land for the following public use, viz: One hundred acres for the use and benefit of a college within this State, one hundred acres for the use and support of a school or schools within said tract & one hundred acres for the use and support of the first settled minister of the gospel within said tract of land to be disposed of for the sole and exclusive purposes aforesaid in such way and manner as the Proprietors or inhabitants of said tract shall judge proper the same to remain unalienable & the rents, profits and moneys arising therefrom shall be appropriated to the several uses aforesaid, and the said three hundred acres shall be divided into three equal parts & be so laid out within said tract as to be equal in quality and in such situation as will best answer the purposes for which they are reserved—which tract of land hereby given and granted as aforesaid is bounded and described as follows, viz:

BEGINNING at the southwest corner of Whitingham at a maple tree standing in the North line of the State of Massachusetts being 24 perches west of the West bank of Deerfield

River & running South 81 degrees & 30 minutes 290 chains to a spruce tree marked O, then North 8 degrees 30 minutes East 174 chains and 50 links to a maple tree marked, standing in the South line of Col. Fitches Grant, then North 81 degrees and 30 minutes 290 chains to a stake & stones, then South 8 degrees and 30 minutes West 174 chains & 50 links to the bounds begun at, containing five thousand & sixty acres & eighty perches. Bounding South on the State of Massachusetts Bay, East on Col. Whiting's patent, North on Col. Fitches patent and West on Readsborough and that the same hereby is incorporated into a district by the name of WHITINGHAM GORE and that the inhabitants that do or shall hereafter inhabit said district are declared to be enfranchised and entitled to all the privileges and immunities of citizens and exercise all legal power & authority in support of their internal rights as fully and amply and (?) other incorporated districts within the State do by law exercise and enjoy.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said granted premises as expressed in the aforesaid grant with all the privileges & appurtenances thereunto belonging & appurtenant to them & their respective heirs & assigns forever upon the following

conditions, viz.: that each proprietor of the said district of Whitingham Gore, his heirs or assigns shall plant & cultivate five acres of land & build a house at least eighteen feet square on the floor or have one family on each respective right within the term of four years from the time of surveying the out lines of said Gore on the penalty of the forfeiture of each *respective* right or share of land not so settled & improved as aforesaid and the same to revert to the freemen of this State to be by their Representatives regranted to such persons as shall appear to settle and cultivate the same that all pine timber suitable for a Navy be reserved for the use and benefits of the freemen of this State:

In Testimony Whereof we have caused the seal of this State to be affixed at Rutland this 20th day of October, Anno Domini, 1796 & the 20th year of our independence.

WITNESS our well beloved Thomas Chittenden, Esquire, Governor of our said State, Captain General & Commander in Chief of all the Militia of the same.

THOMAS CHITTENDEN.

By his Excellency's Command
TRUMAN SQUIRE, *Secretary*.

This piece of land was evidently intended to cover the grant of Lieut. Eddington, Lieut. Gamble and the land to the West—but the measure lacks about 50 rods of reaching the entire length of the premises.

Probably a petition had been presented for this grant as early as September, 1783, in petitions to the legislature describe this as land granted to Green and Moulton.

A petition dated Sept. 29, 1783, set forth that the subscribers were settlers of the town of Whitingham, that they presented a petition dated Sept. 22, 1778, for land granted by New York to Col. Fitch and his associates, they now renew their request for said land containing about six thousand acres, bounded east on the east line of Whitingham, north on land formerly granted to Capt. Walker and one Nordbergh by two New York patents and south on Col. Whiting's grant and a grant formerly made to Lieut. Gambell York patents.

Your petitioners some of us moved here near or quite ten years ago.

Reciting their great hardship in making roads

and bridges, and signed by Leonard Pike, Nathan Green, Elijah Pike, Levi Shumway, James Reed, Amos Green, Bille Clark, Jesse Groves, Jona Thompson, Joshua Coleman, Nathaniel Streeter, John Marks, John Rugg, Fitch Lamphire, Joseph Doubleday, Jonathan Shumway, John Nelson.

This was not granted to them. It was the major part of the grant to Nathan Whiting and others when Whitingham was chartered and is known as Fitches Patent.

There was another petition dated Oct. 2, 1783, claiming that the petitioners since the year 1772, had entered upon and settled a tract of land in the township of Whitingham containing about 3,000 acres.

This is Whiting's grant and they bound it on the west by Lieut. Gambell's New York Patent since granted by this State to Amos Green and others and ask for a reasonable consideration signed Amasa Shumway, Eliphalet Gustin, Jr., Chandler Lamphere, Eliphalet Gustin, James Mullett, Eleazer Gleason, Benajah Lamphire, Levi Shumway, Benjamin Crittenden, Jonathan Edgcomb.

No "reasonable consideration" was granted them nor was their western boundary correct. Oct. 7, 1783, another petition was dated setting forth that the subscribers were settlers in the town of Whitingham and ask for a tract of land bounded as above except west on land granted to Moulton and Green and company, stating that some of them had lived there a number of years. Expecting at least a settling lot and ask that the land be sold or granted to them. Containing about four thousand acres, and signed Jonathan Thompson, Benj. Crittenden, James Reed, Eliphalet Gustin, Daniel Wilcox, Amos Green, Benjamin Lampee, Lieut. Williams, Jesse Groves, Amasa Shumway, James MacMullet, Samuel Thompson, Nathan Cobb, John Mack.

It would almost seem as though this last petition was drawn and signed by some one not familiar with either the territory or the names of the people there.

WHITINGHAM AFTER GRANTS BY VERMONT.

169½ chains	Robert Bratton and Others	Walker's, Well's, Hunt's	Silas Hamilton and Others	177 chains
		178 chains	178 chains	
132-2	Nathan Whiting and others Fitch's Patent			125 chains
178 chains	Green and Moulton Really 302 chains Called 290 chains	Nathan Whiting		178 chains
		178 chains		

So it seems the legislature refused to meddle with the grant to Whiting, and to Whiting and others except the handle which seemed uncertain land. Thomas Gamble probably came to the war from Ireland. He deeded his 2,000 acres to William Gamble, Jr., late of Ireland, then

living in the State of New York. In the description the date is given as 1789, but the deed is dated January 12, 1797, and recorded February 14, 1798. William Gamble, then of Hinsdale, N. H., deeded this tract to John Van Dusen of Great Barrington, Mass., Nov. 13, 1797, and recorded the same day as the above. John Van Dusen deeded it to John Fuller by a deed of warranty, June 16, 1806.

Although the legislature of Vermont seemed to have recognized some of the grants made by New York in this town, it is claimed by some that all those grants and the charter itself were void, and they base their final stand upon the fact as they claim, that the legislature of Vermont passed a law avoiding "all grants, cedes or patents made by or under the government of the Colony of New York except such grants, cedes or patents as were made in confirmation of the grants, charters or patents made by or under the government of the late Province or Colony of New Hampshire." That such a law was passed is true, but it has not been recognized by the Supreme Court of the State of Vermont and was

in direct conflict with the agreement of the commissioners of the State of New York and the State of Vermont, when the State was admitted into the Union. If there was any question in the minds of anyone as to the validity of grants, charters or patents issued by New York not in conflict with these of New Hampshire the decision of the Supreme Court in the case of Readsboro vs. Woodford as late as 1904. Reported in 76 Vt. page 376 settles it. The town of Readsboro was chartered April, 1770, about a month later than Whitingham, and by the Province of New York also. The latest grant of land which we have found. Hon. Clark Jillson, a native of this town, and who was Judge of the District Court, and at one time Mayor of the City of Worcester, Mass., spent much time in research about the town of his nativity, and furnished us a valuable book in his "Green Leaves from Whitingham" which book was unique in this—Mr. Jillson gathered his facts, wrote them down, set the type and became the printer also of his work, except the last twelve pages, which were printed after his decease. Probably, had he lived,

much more would have been found and written by him. He discovered many things which had been forgotten and were not known by his generation, yet he had not found it all as he says of the grant of the three lots to Jonathan and Arad Hunt. "This grant was made in such a way as to render its location doubtful unless the three lots were more clearly defined than was customary in those days."

Walker's Patent was early divided into sixteen lots, each lot containing exactly 196 acres 146 rods and were numbered as follows:

Wilmington

4	3	2	1
5	6	7	8
12	11	10	9
13	14	15	16

Fitch's Patent

Bratton's Grant

Hamilton's Grant

Bratton's grant had some sort of numbering, but there is very little that has come to light, and the only grantee that I am now sure of the name besides Robert Bratton was Nathaniel Davis.

Hamilton's grant, the same size and shape as Walker's, was planned somewhat as follows:

Wilmington

Fitch's Patent

Some of the settlers here had located, and some of the measurements were varied a little from the exact plan, as I intended this, and some of the surveys were not correct.

FITCH'S PATENT: The grant to Nathan

Whiting and his associates at the time the town was chartered was called Fitch's Patent.

It was divided into lots of 250 acres, except the jog north at the west part south of Bratton's grant was 30 rods further north and consequently 30 acres more land each, and lots 13, 14, 15 and 16 were in the handle and finally included in Green and Moulton's grant. Of the four lots I have not located their situation and form of numbering, if they ever were situated and numbered, and though called in the records 250 acres. they would contain nearly 288 acres. The part excepting the handle was as follows:

Bratton			Walker						Hamilton				
Readsboro	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	Halifax
	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
Green and Moulton						Whiting							

Whiting's Patent was divided into 15 lots called 200 acres each, but in fact measured more than 211 acres, and is in plan like this:

Fitch's Patent					
Green and Moulton	3	4	9	10	15
	2	5	8	11	14
	1	6	7	12	13
Massachusetts					
Halifax					

Green and Moulton's grant was divided into lots of 100 acres, but the lots were not regular in form and in number. Some are 160 rods north and south; some 160 rods east and west and some irregular in form to meet the arrangement of highways and the situation of streams. They

were in three different divisions or lots and some small part were not lotted at all.

Most of these lines of grants and lots may now be readily traced, but some have been changed by purchase, some for convenience of parties, some by carelessness and alas! probably some by cupidity of one of the owners.

The town of Halifax is bounded: "Beginning at A Marked Tree Standing half a mile West of Green River in the boundary line between the Governments of Massachusetts Bay and New Hampshire and from thence due West on Said Boundary line Six Miles & at the End of Said Six Miles to turn off at a Right Angle and run Due North Six Miles & at the End of Said Six Miles to Turn off at A Right Angle & run Due East six miles, and at the End of said six miles to turn A Right Angle & run Due South Six Miles to the Tree first Mentioned."

As the Massachusetts line was run West 10 degrees North, so this line must have been 10 degrees also.

The town of Wilmington is bounded: "Beginning at the North West corner of Halifax,

thence Running West 10 degs. North by the Needle six Miles thence North 10 Degs. East by the Needle Six Miles, thence Turning off at Right Angles & Running East 10 Degs. South Six Miles to the North West Corner of a Township formerly granted in this Province by the name of Marlborough, thence South 10 Degs.: west by Marlborough aforesaid to the Corner of Halifax begun at." This then disproves the oft repeated assertion that the towns of Wilmington, Marlboro, Halifax and Whitingham do not corner, and establishes the fact that they do.

For more than a hundred and thirty years this town thus existed, with its wealth of scenery and beauty; its mountain and vale; its hills and glens; its rocks, rivers, ponds and lakes. The Deerfield flowing through the western part of the town; not far from it the largest boulder in New England. Some of the finest views in the world are here. The only natural floating Island on Sadawga Lake. On the original plan of Hamilton's Grant there was a Hamilton Pond; one Caleb Ryder, once living north of the pond

changed its name to Ryder's pond, and later a Mr. Fuller living where Schuyler Murdock now does, the name again changed to Fuller's pond. Roberts pond has been changed to Laurel Lake, but the old Sadawga pond still bears the name it always had; the name of the old Indian, who is said to have inhabited its shores and going down the river in his boat, went over the falls and was drowned. This pond now called Sadawga Lake covers an area of more than two hundred acres, since the Newtons raised the dam to its present height. At the time this town was first settled by the white man, there was a general desire that the frontiers be peopled, as a defence against the Indians and wild beasts, and probably many of the first inhabitants had little or no legal title to their possessions; but who were these first settlers? Leonard Brown, Esq., son of Dea. Jonas Brown and a life long resident of this town, in his interesting work "History of Whitingham" tells us that, "We have been told by Rev. Ebenezer Davis, Col. Obed Foster and Alfred Green that they had learned from their fathers, who were

amongst the first settlers and spent their whole life in Whitingham, that the first opening in the forest of what is now the town of Whitingham, was made on the hill, on or near the old Hezekiah Whitney farm west of the Seymour Houghton place. According to their story, two men came up there from Massachusetts and cleared three or four acres, as early as 1765 or 1766; one or both of their names, they thought was Bolton. It was said they spent two successive summers there; lived chiefly by hunting and trapping, and returned to Massachusetts to spend the Winter. They designed to make this place a permanent home, but one of the men died the winter following the second summer spent there, and the other then abandoned the idea of making his home there, and did not return." Whether the particulars to date and time are true to exact fact, or not, I believe there is something to this tradition, and that the name of the survivor was Robert Bolton and though he may have abandoned his home there, yet stayed for a time in this vicinity, settling in this town or Halifax. It will be remembered that Halifax was settled be-

fore Whitingham. By the first census, taken in the spring of 1771, I find the name of Robert Bolton. This census shows 4 men above the age of 16 years and under 60, 4 women between those ages, 3 boys under 16 and three girls. The names of the 4 heads of families were Silas Hamilton, Aaron Goodrich, Stephen Ayres and Robert Bolton. These would be early settlers if they were settlers here at all. Some writers have attempted to make Robert Bratton, an early settler, Robert Aiton, one of the grantees of the time the town was chartered, and this Robert Bolton one and the same person. It seems, however, unwise to attempt such a task which must prove in the end quite unsuccessful; but we see no further record of this Robert Bolton in this town. There were Boltons about this time in Halifax. Aaron Goodrich is not mentioned in our records. He owned land in Halifax, in the second lot east from the Whitingham line, and died before 1778. Nor do we learn anything more about Stephen Ayres living in town. A descendant of Silas Hamilton is still living here. It is probable that this census was taken at the hotel of Silas Hamil-

ton, and that during the winter the few inhabitants scattered about gathered there for the winter. Robert Bratton was not included in this census, and probably he went to his native home to spend the winter, and was here summers probably before the date of that census.

Whitingham held its centennial celebration in August, 1880, the summer of a hundred years from the first town meeting we now have a record of. This record reads:

"At an annual Town Meeting, March 30th, 1780, the men Whos names are under Ritten Ware chosen to Ofis. Eliphalet Hyde, Town Clerk.

James Angel,
Eliphalet Hyde,
Silas Hamilton, Selectmen.

Silas Hamilton, Treasurer.
Abner More,
Levi Shumway, Constables.

Abner More,
Ebenezer Davis,
John Nelson, Jr., Highway Surveyors.

Thos. Stearns,
Eliphalet Hyde, Listers.

Levi Shumway,
Abner More, Collectors.
Thomas Stearns, Grand Juror.
John Butler, Sealer of Waits & Measures.
Amasa Shumway,
Thos. Stearns, Deer Reef."

This record is not signed nor is there a record of anything else done at that meeting, and all the officers were in the northeast part of the town except four, Ebenezer Davis, John Nelson, Jr., Levi and Amasa Shumway. The very reading of this record ought in itself to be evidence that it was not the first town meeting. "At an annual Town Meeting" does not read like the beginning. The first legislature under the constitution of Vermont was elected in March, 1778, and Silas Hamilton represented the town in that legislature, and in September, 1778, Silas Hamilton and Robert Bratton were Selectmen, acting as such and Thos. Hunt, Constable. What has become of these early records we do not know, but without doubt, from 1771, or about that time

there was some kind of meetings and voting, and probably roads were made by voluntary labor. A petition to the legislature dated Sept. 29, 1783, and signed Leonard Pike, Levi Shumway, Bille Clark, Joshua Coleman, John Rugg, Nathan Green, James Reed, Jesse Groves, Nathaniel Streeter, Fitch Lamphire, Elijah Pike, Amos Green, Jona Thompson, John Marks, Joseph Doubleday, Jonathan Shumway and John Nelson states that they were "settlers of the Town of Whitingham - - - some of us Removed here near or quite ten years ago. We have undergone a Great Deal of Hardship & toil in Making and Repairing Roads and bridges." Another petition states that "Your petitioners since the Year 1772 have entered upon and settled a Tract of Land in the Township of Whitingham," &c. and this is signed Amasa Shumway, Eliphalet Gustin, Benijah Lamphire, Eleazer Gleason, Benjamin Crittenden, Jonathan Edgcomb, Eliphalet Gustin, Jr., James Mullett, Levi Shumway, Chandler Lamphire. This was dated Oct. 2, 1783. And Oct. 7, 1783, another petition covering about the same

as the last was signed by Jonathan Thompson, Eliphalet Gustin, Benjamin Crittenden, Daniel Wilcox, Lieut. Williams, James MacMullett, James Read, Amos Green, Jesse Groves, Samuel Thompson, Nathan Cobb, John Mack. I am inclined to think this last and perhaps one of the others were the work of one man. Most of the names signed to the second petition were of persons who lived in the southeast part of the town, in Whiting's Grant, while most of the signers to the first petition lived on Fitches Patent. These then were some of the settlers.

March 30, 1780, the following persons were made freemen by taking the freeman's oath:

Robert Bratton	Samuel Buttler
John Buttler	John Nelson
James Angel	John Nelson, Jr.
Thomas Sterns	Silas Hamilton
Abner Moor	Benjamin Blodget
Jonathan Edgcomb	Eliphalet Gustin
Eliphalet Hyde	Amasa Shumway
Moses Hyde	Levi Shumway
Ebenezer Davis	Reuben Washburn
Robert Nelson	Thomas Hunt

In 1781, Henry Lee, John Rugg, Beriah Sprague, Jabez Foster, Amos Green, Timothy

Sto Barton, Jonathan Dix, Jonathan Barton, Sterling Sterns, Samuel Day, Elisha Blake, Nathaniel Streeter, Nathan Lee, Rodger Edgcomb, Charles Dodge, Bille Clark, Nathan Green, James Read, Daniel Wilcox.

In 1783, Isaac Lyman, John Howard, Nehemiah Sprague and a man by the name of Fuller.

In 1784, James Roberts, James Glass, Levi Redfield, James Wilcox, Jesse Groves, David Bratton, Robert Liscomb.

Although a record of the town meeting of 1780 is preserved, we have no record of the work of the listers. In 1781 the grand list shows the following names: James Angel, Jonathan Barton, Timothy Sto Barton, Elishu Blake, Benjamin Blodget, Benjamin Blodget, Jr., Thomas Blodget, John Blashfield, Boyd, Robert Bratton, Robert Bratton, Jr., John Butler, Samuel Butler, Bille Clark, Joshua Coleman, Ebenezer Davis, Nathaniel Davis, Samuel Day, Thomas Day, Jonathan Dix, Charles Dodge, Jonathan Edgcomb, Roger Edgcomb, Jabez Foster, Elijah French, Calvin Fuller, Isaac Fuller, Amos Green, Eliphalet Gustin, Daniel Halloway, Silas

Hamilton, James Howard, John Howard, Thomas Hunt, Eliphalet Hyde, Moses Hyde, Benijah Lamphire, Henry Lee, Nathan Lee, Abner Moor, John Nelson, John Nelson, Jr., Samuel Nelson, Bimslee Peters, Leonard Pike, James Read, John Rugg, Amasa Shumway, Jonathan Shumway, Levi Shumway, Beriah Sprague, Sterling Sterns, Thomas Sterns, Luther Washburn, Daniel Wilcox. Fifty-five in all, a substantial increase in ten years. Four men in 1771—fifty-five in 1781, making the inhabitants of the town about 200,

Eliphalet Hyde is called in this list Capt. Silas Hamilton, Esq. Boyd's first name is not given but it was William. The name of James Roberts does not appear, yet he was one of the eight to whom Hamilton's grant was chartered. The list of 1782 also contained 55 names, but 13 of those on the 1781 list had fallen off, namely: John Blashfield, Robert Bratton, Jr., Roger Edgcomb, Isaac Fuller, Elijah French, James Howard, Eliphalet Hyde, John Nelson, John Nelson Jr., Jonathan Shumway, Sterling Sterns, Thomas Sterns, and Luther Washburn and thir-

teen were added, to wit: Benjamin Barber, James Blodget, Joseph Coleman, Benjamin Crittenden, Nathan Green, L. Fitch Lamphire, Robert Liscomb, Isaac Lyman, Silas Moor, Leonard Pike, Jr., James Roberts, Nehemiah Sprague and Nathaniel Streeter. The list of 1783 contained 56 names, Samuel Butler, William Boyd, Moses Hyde, Samuel Nelson, Benjamin Barber, Silas Moor, Leonard Pike, Jr., Nathaniel Streeter, James Blodget and Benjamin Crittenden dropped out, and John Butler, Jr., David Bratton, James Glass, Benjamin Lyman, Andrew Nelson, John Otis and Henry Woodhouse were added, and Robert Bratton, Jr., James Howard, John Nelson, John Nelson, Jr., who were off the 1782 list were returned. The list of 1791 contained 80 names and the census as taken by the United States was 442 people in 1790.

Before any of these lists were taken it appears that Samuel Darby had a house and occupied land on Etherington's Patent as early as Nov. 5, 1776, and that, as early as Nov. 21, 1771, James Cary was here making a contract to cut wood on

the same patent. In taking the census of the United States in 1790 the head of the family was put down, and in columns, **free white males** 16 years old and upward, **free white males** under 16 years, **free white females**, all other free persons, slaves. Whitingham was as follows:

	Free white males over 16	Males under 16	Females
Anderson, Wm.	2	1	3
Angel, James	3		4
Armstrong, Simeon ..	1		
Bratton, Robert . . .	3	1	2
Bratton, David	1	3	2
Barton, Jona.	1	3	2
Barton, Timo.	1	3	3
Barton, Benja.	1	1	1
Bishop, Solomon	1	3	4
Bradley, Eli	1		
Butler, Saml.	1	2	1
Blodget, Thos.	3	3	5
Blodget, Benja, Junr.	1	4	2
Bond, Solomon	1		2
Blodget, Benja.	2		3
Barr, Simeon	1		3
Carnaga, Andrew	2	2	2
Coleman, Joseph	1		
Cooley, Benja.	1	3	3
Carley, Jona.	1	2	1
Clark, Billy	1	2	5

	Free white males over 16	Males under 16	Females
Day, Samuel	3	4	4
Dodge, Joshua	1	1	2
Dix, Jonathan	1	2	3
Davis, Nathaniel	1	2	5
Doubleday, Elisha . . .	1	3	3
Foster, Jabez	1	5	1
Frazier, James	1	1	3
Fuller, Calvin	1		3
Gustin, Eliphalet	2		2
Goodnow, Benja.	3	1	2
Graves, Jesse	1	4	2
Gains, James	1	3	4
Green, Amos	1	2	3
Green, Nathan	1	1	5
Glass, James	4	3	5
Hunt, Thomas	3	2	3
Hayward, John	5	1	3
Hayward, John, Junr.	1	1	2
Hambleton, Jona.	1		
Lyman, Isaac	3	2	5
Lyman, Benja.	2	2	5
Lyman, Eleazer	1	1	2
Lyman, Silas	1		
Lamphier, Banajah . .	1		2
Lamphier, Reuben . . .	1		
Lamphier, Chandler .	1		
Lyon, Joseph	2		2
Lovell, Samuel	1	1	2
Mullett, James	2	5	1

	Free white males over 16	Males under 16	Females
Munn, Calvin	2	1	4
Morey, John	1	1	2
Nelson, John	1	2	2
Nye, Jona.	2	1	1
Nye, Wm.	1		5
Otis, John	1		2
Otis, John, Junr.	1		2
Pike, Leonard	1	6	7
Pike, Elisha	1		1
Pike, Elijah	1		1
Pike, Nathaniel	1		3
Roberts, James	1	3	4
Rugg, John	4	1	8
Ryder, Caleb	1	2	3
Reed, James	1	2	2
Sikes, Francis	1	1	3
Smith, Jonas	2	1	2
Streeter, James	1	1	2
Shumway, Levi	1	4	2
Shumway, Amasa	1	2	6
Sprague, Nehemiah	1		8
Tarr, Simeon	1		
Victory, Merrifield	1	1	1
Wilcox, Danl.	1	5	4
Wilcox, James	2	2	6
Whitney, Aaron	1		2
Wright, Richard	2	2	2
Wood, John	1	1	1

The name Graves should be Groves; Hayward, Howard and Lovell, Lovett.

In the examination of some of the early deeds it is difficult to determine whether they are warranty, Quit Claim or Mortgage deeds. It is possible that some lands were transferred without any paper title. Many deeds, probably, were never recorded, and some were recorded in other places than our town books. It must be remembered New York claimed this territory until bought off by Vermont for \$30,000. New Hampshire for fifteen years and Massachusetts for a shorter time. In 1777, Vermont declared her independence and claimed sovereignty here, and no wonder the early settlers were in a dilemma, and when, in October, 1784, the legislature of Vermont passed an act empowering the selectmen of Whitingham to issue a warrant for the collection of a tax of one penny an acre on all unappropriated lands in Whitingham for the purpose of building and repairing roads and bridges, and under this act Constable Daniel Wilcox sold to pay this tax, lands he called unimproved about 5,000 acres of Fitch's Patent,

19 in Whiting's Patent, 50 in Hamilton's grant, 652 in Bratton's Grant and some 1,200 acres in Walker's patent. Some of these lands were sold to the real owners, some to agents of the real owners, and some probably to real purchasers; probably some of these were redeemed by the legal owners. Jesse Groves, Constable, says the legislature granted a tax of one penny an acre in October, 1789, and proceeded to sell to pay this tax, 16 pieces of land, probably, mostly to the real owners before the sale, among them 1,219 acres in Walker's patent to Jonathan and Arad Hunt. These taxes were assessed before Vermont was recognized as a State, but the fad of having your lands sold and buying them yourself was spreading. The "Governer and Council" states that in 1796, a tax of two pence on an acre was voted by the legislature, but the Constable, Capt. Samuel Parker, called it one and sold 13 lots for that tax, and the next year Constable Capt. Amasa Shumway sold 76 lots on the other penny calling it, however, as passed by the 1797 legislature. In 1807, the legislature assessed a tax of one cent an acre on all the lands in Vermont to

erect a State Prison, and John Roberts, Constable, sold 44 lots of land on this tax. Yea, even this fad had almost become a craze. When the legislature of 1812 voted a tax of one cent an acre, Constable Shumway advertised all the land in town for sale to pay the same. He called each 100 acres 95 and all other lots nearly in proportion. In these various sales, some of the principal owners had their lands sold more than once; it is supposed to perfect their title. James Roberts, one of the leading men in town at those times had his home sold three or more times, and bought it himself. By this time it would seem that all the land in town ought to be well defined and its title secure.

Now what did these early people do that was different from other people? We may know they went on reducing the forest, building log houses, then better, and enacted those things necessary for their comfort and convenience. They builded roads, chose officers and established society, same as other people in those days. There was no organized church in this town until 1804, but in 1781 citizens of this town sub-

scribed toward building a meeting house, near the corner of the town. Probably this house was never built. What move, if any was made prior to 1780 to build a meeting house our records do not show. At the March meeting in 1781, "Voted that the Selectmen shall run a senter line through the town East and West, North and South and lay out two main Roads as near the senter line as the land will allow of." At the March meeting in 1784, "Voted that the Selectmen find the senter of said town and make report to the next March annual Town Meeting." Mr. Jillson thought this finding the "senter of the town was for the purpose of building near there a meeting house." At a meeting September 7, 1784, "Voted that the town will not except the spot the Selectmen put the stake for the Meeting house." "Voted that the Meeting house spot be Eastwardly from James Reed's house about 60 or 70 Rods on the hill amongst the Windfalls." Town meeting, September 6. 1785, "Voted that the road be Surveyed and Recorded ten rods wide that leads from Mr. Groveses Westerly by the spot of land voted by the town

for the place to build a meeting house. Said wedth of Rod beginning fifteen rods east of the meeting house place thence running west as the road is now laid to the road that leads through the town North and South." The road that run through the town north and south was the one from Rowe line to Wilmington line, past the dwelling house now owned by Charles S. Goodnow. The road that run to the old common began on Halifax line at the house of Thomas Hunt in what is now known as the Perry Hall pasture; thence southerly past Elijah Allen's, E. J. Corkin's, Geo. H. Burgess' and No. 5 schoolhouse to the center. Jesse Groves lived at the so-called Squire Bliss place lately sold by Wm. O. Barnes to Archie R. Morse. The road was to be three rods wide from Thomas Hunt's to Jesse Groves'. The selectmen probably found the center of the town about seven and a half rods southerly from the northeast corner of the Brigham Young lot now owned by Charles E. Putnam, but the place voted among the windfalls must have been near Mrs. Mary E. Morse's, for many years the Baptist

parsonage. James Reed's house, was the old Higley house, then near where Chas. S. Goodnow's barn now is. July 21, 1788, the town voted to raise a tax of two pence on the pound to hire a minister, said tax to be paid in money, "Wheet," "Rey," corn, flax, or "neet" stock to be paid on or before the 25th day of December next, and voted to meet on the second Monday in September next to clear off a place to build a meeting house. If this land was cleared off, and the tax all paid in so the minister could have a Christmas feast, it would all figure \$54.61, but they did not raise so much, as at the meeting when the tax was voted, it was also voted that James Roberts, Esq., Silas Hamilton, Esq., James Angel, Tilson Barrows, Roger Edgcomb and all others that bring certificates agreeable to law before said tax is assessed shall be exempted from paying any part thereof.

They chose Amasa Shumway to collect this tax, and it seems he had to force the collection of some taxes, and suits were brought against him, and in one a judgment recovered which the town paid.

At this time many of the ministers were members of Congregational Churches and doubtless preached according to that faith, and those persons who were members of churches of other denominations, and paid to these churches felt it was a burden which they should not bear to pay to support a state or town church, when they were assisting in supporting one of their own faith and practice; this is probably the reason of the exemptions mentioned in the vote; and at different times certificates have been recorded, that persons paid and belonged to other churches. July 6, 1795, by vote of 29 to 8 voted to build a house of public worship 40 x 50. To raise £200 in timber boards, shingles and money, the timber boards and shingles to be apportioned by a committee and to be on the ground by July 1, 1796, or forfeit their right to timber &c., and must pay in money in "lue" thereof. Samuel Day, James Roberts and Jabez Foster were the building committee. Voted that persons of every religious denomination have free access to and in said house on any day of the week without obstruction or molestation. This meeting was adjourned to

September 29 when it was voted that \$400 of the £200 be paid on lists of 1795 and the remaining £80 be raised on the list of 1796. Voted that the meeting house be set on the height of land a few rods east of the school house in the center school district. A meeting was held February 1, 1796, to see if the town would vote to reconsider, which, by a vote of 22 to 13 was passed in the negative. They then voted on the question of postponement for one year, which was lost by a vote of 14 to 8, and in 1798 on the question, "Will you build a meeting house?" passed in the negative, so it seems it was supposed they had reconsidered the whole proceedings of the meeting house, but at a special meeting March 18, 1799, "Voted, unanimously, to build a meeting house: Yeas 41, Nays 2," 45 x 50, on the top of the hill on the common east of the center school house. At the March meeting in 1800 voted that all town meetings in the future shall be warned to be holden at the meeting house. At a meeting June 5 chose James Glass, Samuel Day and Jabez Foster a committee to "supply the house with Preaching the Insuing Year" and voted to ac-

cept the meeting house. So after all this struggle the first meeting house was builded, underpinned and accepted, yet it was finished, neither on the outside nor inside, pews were not set, yet for the next few years the town voted money, and chose a committee each year to procure preaching.

October 25, 1804, the Congregational Church was organized as follows: "We, the subscribers, Inhabitants of the town of Whitingham being sensible of our obligation to walk together in all the ordinances of the Gospel of Christ, & to be united in fellowship & communion as deciples of our common Lord & Savior, Do now with the advice & assistance of Rev. Messrs Gershom C. Lyman of Marlboro, Resolved Smith of Rowe & Jesse Edson of Halifax, combine together in the sacred relation of Christian brethren, in the firm belief of the following articles, as the Doctrines of our religious faith, viz: we believe

There is one only living and true God, existing in 3 persons, the Father, Son & Holy Ghost.

That God is Creator & Governor of all worlds, possessed of all natural & moral perfections in an infinite Degree.

That the Scriptures of the old & New Testament are given by inspiration from God & are the only rule of our faith & practice.

That God made man upright & holy, placed him under a covenant of works with a promise of life annexed to it in case of his obedience, & a threatening of death if he was disobedient.

That man, being left to his own free will, by transgressing the command of his Maker, fell from his original state of holiness & happiness, & involved himself with all his posterity in guilt and misery.

That fallen Man could never have made satisfaction to the divine law, or restored himself to a state of holiness, or obtained the Divine favour.

We believe that Jesus Christ, the Son of God is the only mediator between God & Man,—that in order to effect a reconciliation between them, he assumed human nature & became God & man in two different natures & one person forever. That by obeying the Divine law & Suffering its penalty, in man's stead, he hath made atonement for sin, & opened the way for the pardon & salvation of sinners, in consistence with the honor of God as the righteous Governor of the world.

We believe that those who partake of the saving benefit of Christ's atonement, are regenerate by the special operation of the Holy Spirit, having been "chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world, that they should be holy & without

blame before him in love" (Eph. i. 4.). They must believe in the name of the only begotten Son of God, exercise hearty repentance for sin, & bring forth fruits of obedience in holy lives & conversation.

We believe that all who are born again of the Spirit & united to Christ by faith & love, shall be kept by the power of God, through faith unto salvation (1 Pet. i. 5.) so that nothing shall ever separate them from the love of Christ (Rom. 8: 35 &c.).

We believe the resurrection of the body, & the re-union of the soul with it, and that both will be joint partakers of endless happiness or misery.

We believe there will be a great & general judgment, when the whole world shall stand before Christ, the Judge of quick & dead to give an account of the deeds done in the body, the issue of which will be that the wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into life eternal.

We believe it is the duty of Christians united in particular church relation to walk together in love to watch over one another in the Lord, & to encourage each other in the performance of Gospel Duties, to train up their children in the admonition of the Lord, to maintain family reli-

gion & government & the public and private worship of God.

Sincerely subscribing to these articles as the doctrines of our religious faith & fellowship one with another & sensible that it is an awful thing to transact with the living God, we do now solemnly covenant with God, & with each other in the words following, viz:

We do now in the presence of God, & this congregation receive & own the Lord Jehovah, Father, Son & Holy Ghost to be our God.

We promise by the assistance of his grace, to yield ourselves at all times to be his willing & obedient subjects: sacredly to keep all his commands, & to walk in all the ordinances of the gospel blamelessly.

We covenant, through the assistance of his grace to dedicate our children to him in baptism, to be trained up for him; to walk in his church as faithful subjects of his kingdom & children of his family; to watch over one another with all carefulness, Christian tenderness & jealousy & will submit to the gospel admonition, discipline & instructions of the church of Christ in this place.

Sarah Brown,
Sally Brown,

Susanny Pike,
Martha Morley,

Rachel Gains,
Reuben Brown,
John Cooley,

Stepn. Taintor,
Nathaniel Peck.

The subscribers having been duly embodied & formed as a regular church of Christ by our assistance chose Rev. Jesse Edson of Halifax as their Moderator.

Gersham C. Lyman,
Preservid Smith,
Jesse Edson.

Whitingham,
Oct. 25, 1804.

The same day Reuben Brown was chosen Sub. Mod. Jesse Edson, Mod."

As the foregoing commencement of the Congregational Church differs from another printed description it is no more than fair that I explain to my readers the authority on which I base my statements. Years ago I heard that the records of that church were in the hands of Ezra Smead, who then lived where Frank E. Davis, Esq., now does, at Elm Grove in Colrain, Mass. I went to see him and found he had the record, the original articles of faith, some confessions in writing, and some letters from other churches, &c. All these I bought and paid for, hoping that

the town, the Congregational Church of the State or the Vermont Historical Society would be pleased to have these records for historical purposes. Mr. Smead said he would like to keep them to copy some records of his ancestors belonging to that church. He also loaned the record to General Gaines, then hotel keeper in Colrain, as his ancestors also belonged to this church. While the record was there the hotel burned and this record with it, so that nothing can be told of its contents except that which may have been copied before. Ezra Smead went west and died there with the package containing the original articles of faith, and other papers addressed to me, which I received by due course of mail and have them in my possession now. Probably when Mr. Jillson wrote the "Centennial" address he had access to this record. He says this church worshipped in the old meeting house, but its light went out in 1823, after a hard, earnest and honest struggle to benefit mankind." He gives the names of seven of its pastors and says that the members consisted of not far from 50 persons, and names besides those who were

first organized into the church: Rebecca Bascom, Jerusha Bigelow, wife of Thomas, Sally Bigelow, wife of Samuel, Stephen Billings, John Blanchard and his wife Sally, Joseph Carley and his wife Sarah, Jonathan Carley, Lydia Carnegie wife of Andrew, Polly Cooley wife of John, John Fuller, Rachel Hammond, Betsey Haynes wife of Jonas, Abigail Hosley, Joseph Marsh, Sarah Martin, Mary Murdock, Polly Peck wife of Nathaniel, James Preston and his wife Elizabeth, Isaac Smead and his wife Polly, Rebecca Smith, Miss Susan Stickney, Clarissa Stone, Ruth Stone wife of William, Lydia Stone, Mercy Taintor, Patience Walker, Lydia Waste wife of Ebenezer, Eli Wood and Lydia his wife. Many of these names are in the letters from other churches referred to, together with the names of Rebecca Marsh wife of Joseph and Elizabeth Preston daughter of James. December 10, 1804, the town voted to join with the church in said town in giving the Reverend Preserved Smith a call to settle in said town as the minister and pay him three hundred dollars annually for his services, but it seems he did not care to continue

his services here, and on April 1st, 1805, the town voted a tax of one cent on the dollar and appointed the selectmen a committee to lay out the money as they "shall see fit."

In those days it was supposed that a church concerned itself about religious matters, and had no power to attend to financial affairs, and so a Society was formed to look after the finances.

November 12, 1806, the town "Voted to form into a society by the name of the first Congregational Society in Whitingham" and at an adjourned meeting chose Jabez Foster Clerk of said Society and Hezekiah Whitney Treasurer of said society. When this church was organized, many Baptists, Methodists and Universalists filed their certificates stating that they did not agree in religious opinion with a majority of the town, and thus saved paying the town church tax.

THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

"Whitingham, September 8th, 1808. A number of brethren met according to appointment first took under consideration the duty we owe to God opened our meeting by prayer then proceeded to consider the duty we owe to one an-

another and the local distance from Sister Churches, Considering 'Church privileges and our desire for the advancement of God's kingdom in the world. After those serious considerations we mutually agree to form into a church if thought expedient by Council proceeded to Choose Walter Emes to serve as Clerk and agree to send to four Baptist Churches of Christ to assist in embodying said Church (viz) first Guilford, first Colrain, Heath & Halifax.

Whitingham, October the 18th, 1808. At an Ecclesiastical Council Convened at the meeting house on the request of a number of Baptist Brethren in this place (viz) from the first church in Guilford, Elder Jeremiah Packer, Brethren John Noys and Joseph Olden, first Chh Colrain, Elder Thomas Purington, Brethren Hezekiah Smith & Isaac Chapen; from Heath Church, Elder George Witherell, brethren Aaron Gleason & Stephen Davenport; from Halifax Chh, Deacon Samuel Wood and David Allen and brother James Tucker; first Chose Elder Purington, Moderator, and Deacon Wood, Clerk. After Solemn prayer to God for Direction, brother Wilson from Somerset Church & brother Zenas Cary from first Colrain & Deacon Asa Hackett from 2d Colerain

Chh., being present were added to the council. Proceeded to Examine the articles of faith and Covenant, and voted to Accept them & the Brethren and Sisters that assent and Consent to the same are as follers:

Brothers

Josiah Brown
Walter Emes
Joseph Stone
Jonas Brown
Joseph Olden
Joel B. Emes
James Warren
Joseph Brown
James Carpenter
William Franklin

Sisters

Millicent Brown
Katharine Emes
Sarah Franklin
Lois Brown
Leah Olden
Esther Emes
Susannah How
Dorcas Saben
Lucy Tarbell
Olive Emes
Esther Emes, 2d

After an examination found them to be experienced in the religion of Christ, and baptized by Emertion, voted to give them fellowship in uniting together as a church of Christ in gospel order. Voted that Elder Thomas Purrington & Elder George Witherel arrange the articles of faith and Covenant this day adopted by them. Voted that Elder Purington give them the Right hand of fellowship as a Church of Christ; And Elder Packer to Charge them to Continue in

Gospel Orders and to walk worthy of the Vocation wherewith they are called.

Thomas Purington, Moderator.

Samuel Wood, Clerk."

Thus was the Baptist church organized.

October 27, 1808, Salem Shumway, Jemima Shumway, Patty Houghton, Katharine Emes 2d, and Anna Green were baptized into the church. November 18, 1808, the church met according to agreement, and opened with prayer. Chose Josiah Brown, Moderator, Walter Emes to serve as clerk, Jonas Brown to serve as deacon. Read the articles of faith, and covenant, and received them mutually as ours.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

I. We believe in one God, infinite in nature, power, wisdom and goodness.

II. We believe in the trinity of persons—the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in essence one.

III. We believe man was made upright, but hath apostatized by sin and wholly lost his moral rectitude and thereby become obnoxious to the penalty of the Divine Law and incapable of extricating himself everlastingly—and therefore his salvation is alone through the Sovereign

grace of God abounding through the obedience, suffering, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

IV. We believe the salvation of the sinner through Christ is according to the gracious purpose of the Father which was given us in Christ Jesus before the World began. See II Timothy i. 9.

V. We believe none are subjects of this salvation but such as are effectually called and sanctified by the power of the Holy Ghost, adopted by the Father, pardoned through the blood of Christ, and justified through His righteousness, and that evangelical birth and repentance are the only means through which we can enjoy this salvation.

VI. We believe all those who are effectually called will be kept by the power of God through faith into salvation and never finally perish.

VII. We believe there will be a resurrection of the dead and a final judgment, at which the wicked will be sent away into everlasting punishment.

VIII. We believe that Baptism is the visible door into the visible church, and that ordinance is to be administered to none but such as give evidence of their faith, and that immersion is the only mode.

IX. We believe that the Lord's Supper is to be administered to all those who are in the visible church of Christ, who walk in Gospel order to do it in remembrance of Christ until His coming.

X. We believe the New Testament contains a perfect rule of discipline.

XI. We believe that no man has a right to administer the ordinances of the gospel unless legally authorized by the laying on of hands.

XII. We believe it is the church's duty to administer to their elder's support so that he give himself to the ministry of the word that the word of the Lord be not hindered.

COVENANT OF THE CHURCH.

We do now in the presence of God submit ourselves to the discipline of Christ in this church, promising that by the assistance of His Grace, we will walk in all the ordinances blameless; having a due regard to all His Commands, to keep ourselves unspotted from the world that we may be blameless as the sons of God.

We do promise to watch over each other in love; bearing one anothers burdens and so fulfil the laws of Christ; to endeavor to comfort each other under temptations and infirmities; and to

strengthen the weak; to rejoice with them that do rejoice and mourn with them that mourn; to pray with and for each other in all our tribulations, and in faithfulness to watch over each other and endeavour in brotherly love to reclaim any that go out of the Way, and not suffer sin upon our brother.

We promise by grace of God to pay a due regard to the Christian Sabbath and not forsake the assembling ourselves together on that day, and to endeavor to keep ourselves, or any under our care from unbecoming behavior or conversation, but spend the time in the service of God; and whatever further light from the word of God is manifested to us by the spirit of truth we will cheerfully embrace.

Now to these promises which we have freely, solemnly and severally made in the presence of God, we call Heaven and Earth to witness, feeling ourselves under the highest obligations by the command of God and our own covenant and promises to observe.

Being sensible of our own weakness in insufficiency we pray the God of all grace to enable us to stand in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, that we may have on the whole armor of God, hastening unto the coming of the

day of God, when Christ will receive his people to himself, when we shall see as we are seen, and know as we are known. Amen.

At a meeting legally warned and holden in Whitingham, on the 10th day of April, 1809, to see if the town will form into a Baptist society, &c. 2d. Made choice of Amos Brown, Esq., Clerk of the said Baptist Society, and voted that the Baptists have the use of the meeting house one-half the time the next year, three months alternately. I suppose the Congregational church had the meeting house the other half. The Baptist church and society continued separate until the church was chartered in 1902 and united. Although several ministers of different denominations had preached in town, no other churches or religious societies were formed for about twenty years.

While the town had thus been looking after the religious interests of the people, they were not remiss in their rights, for at the annual meeting in March, 1782, "Voted that the Law Books at Capt. Hyde's be removed to the Town Clerk's" and "the law books be removed from

Amos Green's to Lieut. Benjamin Blodget's." Thus we see the town had the possession of two law books.

While these men were making a town, redeeming the wilderness to farms, making roads, and, with the help of the women, making society, matters were primitive, and domestic animals at first run at large, but as fields were cultivated and crops grown it became necessary to put up a defence to cattle committing damage, and at the March meeting, 1783, it was voted that sheep, horses and swine shall not run at large from the first of May until the Middle of October.

While all lived, it was not necessary to have cemeteries, but at the March meeting in 1784, Daniel Wilcox, Thomas Blodget and James Roberts were chosen a committee to look out some suitable place for a "Burying yard" in said town.

At a meeting in September, 1784, voted that the town meetings be held at James Reed's house in the future. This was near Charles S. Goodnow's big barn, so it seems they tried to have the meetings near the center of the town.

Money was scarce in those days, and in 1787, "Voted that the Select men serve free of cost to the town." Probably the honor of the office was sufficient.

The town early was looking after the education as well as the Christian teaching of the young and in 1789, voted to appoint a committee to divide the town into school districts.

The history of no town would be complete without some information about its defenders and the defenders of their country. From the best authority I have been able to gather that of the seventy men who lived or owned land here during the revolutionary struggle, fifty were soldiers before they came to this town. As there were no records which came down to us, kept in this town, until 1780, we can gather from them little information. December 17, 1781, the town "Voted to make allowance to those that done most in the present war." Who had this allowance, soldiers or civilians? I cannot say. March 28, 1782, "Voted to raise tow men for the ensuing campaign for eight months." "Voted to Rase seven men By town vote." After the war

at the annual town meeting, March 6, 1786, Voted that the selectmen give orders on the treasurer for remainder of Isaac Rugg's and Henry Lee's wages due to them for services in the war, and for ten shillings due Lieut. Blodget. Probably because the war debt was so heavy, at that meeting it was voted that the town tax be paid in wheat at 4s. per bushel, rye at 3, corn 2s./6, oats 1s./6, flax 8d. per lb, sugar 15d. per lb. Other taxes had been paid before in produce. These three items are all I am able to find in the records, but probably there were other records, and probably fifty men went to war from this town, during the continuance of the Revolution. Many of the early settlers bore official titles from corporal to colonel. Some of these titles were probably earned by service in the militia; some in the French and Indian wars; and some in the Revolution. Mr. Jillson states that "A military order, dated, Windsor, 5th June, 1777" signed by "Samuel Fletcher, Colo." is addressed "To the Capt. or the inhabitants of Whitingham" calls "for its quota of men, to march to Rutland for the defense of the frontier of this State, the same

to serve two months from the day they march, unless sooner discharged" and says on this order is a memoranda giving E. Davis, Nathaniel Davis, Eliphalet Gustin, Robert Bratton, Jr., Robert Nelson, John Nelson, Jr., Benjamin Nelson and William Nelson credit for services rendered under this order. I find a company of soldiers in the Revolution as follows: Capt. Josiah Fish, Lieuts. Moses Johnson, Isaac Lyman, Sergts. John Moore, Abel Johnson, Stephen Pratt, Micah Hatch, Corporals Levi Aldrich, Cornelius Miller, William Crawford, Joseph Gilbert, Fifer Noah Hopkins, Drummer Joel Knight, Privates Isaac Adams, Simeon Alger, Benjamin Alvord, Nathaniel Austin, Thomas Barnes, Philip Bartlett, Abishai Blodget, John Boyden, Benjamin Brown, Oliver Brown, Jonathan Burke, Israel Chipman, Jonathan Clayton, Willard Converse, Nathaniel Cummings, Calvin Ewins, James P. Frazier, Solomon Gilson, John Green, James Grimes, Israel Hall, James Hanley, Joseph Hartwell, Paul Hazelton, John Hooker, David Howard, Daniel Howe, Nathan Johnson, William Knapp, Henry Lee, Horton

Lee, Benjamin Lyman, Eleazar Lyman, William Martin, John Negus, James Nichols, Samuel Nichols, Elijah Pike, Leonard Pike, Benjamin Pierce, Ebenezer Platt, Jonathan Pratt, Benjamin Randall, Jethro Randall, George Ray, Grindell Reynolds, Levi Robinson, Abraham Rugg, Isaac Rugg, Jersham Sawin, Samuel Sawin, Eli Scott, Abraham Shipman, Elihu Smead, John Stearns, Alex Stoughton, Joseph Temple, Thomas Turner, Phineas Underwood, James Uron, Timothy Wakefield, John Wallis, Abiathai Waldron, Samuel Wellman, William Whalen, Jonathan Whitney, Jonathan Wilcox, Asa Winchester, Samuel Wiswell, William Wyman, John Young. Of these, there lived in this town at some time during the revolution:—Lieut. Lyman, Sergts. Moore and Pratt, Privates Abishai Blodget, James P. Frazier, David Howard, Henry Lee, Horton Lee, William Martin, Benjamin Lyman, Eleazar Lyman, Elijah Pike, Leonard Pike, Jonathan Pratt, Abraham Rugg, Isaac Rugg, John Wallis and Jonathan Wilcox. There was probably one or more Lieutenants from this town all the time of that war. Isaac

Lyman became first Lieutenant, Adjutant and Quartermaster. This company also belonged to Col. Fletcher's Regiment. In Capt. Josiah Boyden's company, Nathaniel Davis, Sergt. John Gault, and Alexander Gault were Whitingham names. In Joseph Tyler's company, Whitingham soldiers, Abram Rugg, named before, Corp. Thos. Haskell, Jonathan Pike, Jonathan Whitney, Samuel Parker, Abner Moore; Parker was a soldier in Massachusetts before coming to this town. Thomas Hunt, Thomas Stearns, Sterling Stearns were in Whitingham. The following names claimed to belong to another town lived here during some time of the revolution:—Elijah Easton, Thomas Haskell, Samuel Thompson and John Marks; the latter claimed to be in Draper, now Wilmington, in 1775, but served in a Massachusetts regiment and later in several different companies and, in 1783, claimed to have lived here several years. I think he was a surveyor and "pettifogger."

These are all the names that have come under my eye, but I believe every able bodied male from 15 to 60 years of age who was here during

that time was a soldier and many of them were officers.

Professor Goodrich, in Vermont Revolutionary Rolls, puts down a whole company from this town in 1782, but gives the name of only Lieut. Moor as commanding officer. I do not know if they were Revolutionary soldiers.

It seems that after the Revolution there was then thoughts of preparedness, for the town voted, November 14, 1803, to raise the money that is necessary to purchase the military stores necessary to supply the town as the "Law Directs."

Voted that the place to deposit said stock of ammunition shall be in the upper loft of the meeting house in a chest to be made at the expense of the town for that purpose.

While no monument or lettered stone marks the earthly resting place of most of the early dead, and no record remains to tell thereof, at an early day many deaths occurred. April 13, 1801, it was voted that the selectmen shall purchase a "Poll or Grave Cloth" for the use of the town and that the same shall be kept in the

Town Clerk's office. May 17, 1801, the town voted to fence the several Burying Yards in said town, viz: one in the center near Mr. Caleb Murdock's, one in the northeast corner of said town near Esq. Roberts and one in the southwest corner near Wm. Fuller's, on condition that the owners of said yards will sufficiently convey the same to the town for the purpose of burying grounds.

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